(b) Procurement of wheat by Government agencies for the Central Pool during KMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 was only 92.3 and 111.3 lakh tonnes respectively against the estimated requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of wheat for TPDS and other welfare schemes. To make up the shortfall, the Government took decisions to import 55 and 18 lakh tonnes of wheat in 2007-08.

Procurement and import of wheat

3431. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many tonnes of wheat were collected directly from farmers to build stock piles in the country in the last two years;

(b) what is the price paid per quintal to farmers;

(c) how many tonnes of wheat were imported in the last two years; and

(d) what is the price paid per quintal alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 92.3 lakh tonnes and 111.3 lakh tonnes of wheat were procured by the Government agencies (FCI and State agencies) for the Central Pool in RMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

(b) Procurement price (MSP plus bonus) paid to the farmers for wheat procured during RMS 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs. 700/- (MSP of Rs. 650 plus bonus of Rs. 50/- per quintal) and Rs.850 (MSP of Rs.750/- plus bonus of Rs.100/- per quintal) per quintal respectively.

(c) and (d) During 2006-07, orders were placed for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat on Government account. Out of this 53.79 lakh tonnes arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tonnes in 2007-08 (total 54.54 lakh tonnes) at a weighted average price of US $ 204.656 per MT.

During 2007-08, orders were placed for import of 17.985 lakh tonnes of wheat on Government account out of which 17.69 lakh tonnes of wheat has arrived in the country at a weighted average price of US $ 372.818 per MT.

Abhijit Sen Committee

†3432. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to assess the role of rise in prices of agriproducts of future trading, Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Abhijit Sen;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the Committee was constituted;

(c) by when the Committee would submit its report;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi